PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to import edible oils during the current year : and

(b) if so, the quantity and value thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Government is considering the question of import of edible oils, during the current year.

Investment by Multinational Companies

3145. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy regarding the investment by multinational companies in India :

(b) whether the Government propose to issue a list of such industries in which the multinational companies will not be permitted/allowed to invest ; and

(c) if so, by when the list is likely to be issued ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : (a) to (c) A statement on Industrial Policy was tabled by Government in the Lok Sabha on 24-7-1991. The policy governing foreign investment has been enunciated in paras 24 to 26 and para 39-B of the Statement.

Families assisted under IRDP

3146. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number of families assisted and proposed to be assisted under the Integrated Rural Development Programme during 1991 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL) : The total number of families assisted during the year 1991 (from January, 1991 to June, 1991) is 13.56 lakhs. The target for assisting identified families is not fixed for a calendar year 1991. However, it is 22.54 lakh families for financial year 1991-92.

Issue of Letters of Intent for chartering Foreign Fishing Trawlers

3147. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are issuing letters of intent liberally for chartering foreign fishing trawlers in order to increase country's export earnings : and

(b) if not the steps the Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b) Letters of intent for chartering of foreign fishing vessels are issued in accordance with the prevalent Charter policy under the Maritime Zone of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 and the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Rules, 1982. In accordance with the provisions of the said Act, no permit for chartering is to be granted unless the